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SCOTCH LITERATURE.

A Literary History of Scotland. By J. H. Millar, B. A., LL. B. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1903.

It has been thought, and that at a time much more recent than Dr. Johnson's, that it was not possible for a Scotchman to be an impartial critic of Scottish literature. That impossibility has been achieved in the book before us, which, while not lacking in warmth of appreciation, is everywhere fair and candid. A critical test is the author's treatment of Burns, in which (as it seems to the present writer) in estimating both the poet's genius and his character, Mr. Millar has said just the right word.

The pre-Reformation period of Scottish literature, whose interest and importance have hardly yet received adequate recognition, is excellently treated. English critics, inheriting some remnant of the prejudices of three centuries, can hardly yet be brought to see that this literature—or at least so much of it as falls between Chaucer and Surrey—was in most respects equal, and in some superior, to anything produced south of the Tweed. Mr. Millar justly says that, in addition to the charm of novelty:

"These admirable writers can boast the attraction of having been no mere haphazard bunglers, who now and then fortuitously hit upon a good thing, but, on the contrary, artists to the tips of their fingers. Whatever we may think of the subjects which they made their own, there can be no question that they exercised upon these subjects a conscious, deliberate, and fastidious art; and such was their success, that they raised their country to a position in the scale of poetry superior by far to that occupied by England at any point of time between the death of Chaucer and the rise of the Elizabethan poets. . . . The 'makars,' for all their 'aureate' terms, never lost touch of life; and their strong propensity to satire of a robust, not to say ferocious type, prevented them from degenerating into that most futile and incensing of all things, an academic coterie."

The makars possessed both strength and grace, but they were followed by a generation that possessed strength only, and that of a terribly rugged sort. It was the time of ferocious religious and political hatred, and discussion grows rabid, and

satire vitriolic. Still some literary interest attaches to work that is so desperately in earnest, and to men who hate with such a perfect hatred.

The pendulum swung to the other extreme, and after the Union we come upon a generation that has given up strength and tried to acquire grace by imitation; when the ambition of every literary Scotchman was to write 'English' (as if Henryson and Dunbar had not written English!) and of every fashionable Scot to acquire a London accent. It is no small praise to Mr. Millar that he can interest us in even the 'Augustan age,' and lead us through the dreary waste by paths which, by comparison, we can almost call flowery.

The light of true poetry flashed up in Burns, just as the century expired, and even on his genius the 'Augustan' ideals had a disastrous effect. As has already been said, Mr. Millar's estimate of Burns and his work is sober and sound as well as appreciative.

The literature of the nineteenth century is treated with the same combination of taste and judgment which makes this by far the best manual of the kind that has come under the reviewer's eye.

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SPANISH TEXTS.

Galdós' Marianela, edited, with introduction, notes and vocabulary, by J. GEDDES and F. M. JOSSELYN. Boston: D. C. Heath & Co., 1903.

Galdós' Marianela, edited, with introduction, notes and vocabulary, by EDWARD GRAY. New York: American Book Company, 1903.

Galdós' Marianela, abridged and edited, with introduction and notes, by L. A. LOISEAUX. New York: W. R. Jenkins, 1903.

We welcome the appearance of this well-known work of the eminent Spanish novelist, whose high reputation in the world of letters together with the huge bulk and great variety of his literary output well warrants an addition to our available specimens of his work for class use. In compensation for our expectancy we have three